

Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

Monday, March 22, 2010

6:30PM

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:40PM by Chair Kevin Regan. Members present: Dale Gibson, Lynn Brown, Mary Benson, Natalie Blancardi, Kevin Atkins, Todd LaVergne, Randall Young, Mary Kaufman, Gene Gilbert and Scott Perez.

The meeting minutes of February 23, 2010, were approved.

A presentation was made by Melanie Torres, from the Department of Recreation and Parks Concessions Administration Section, on the Hansen Dam Equestrian Center. Originally, a contract between the City and Mr. Eddie Milligan was made in 1997. By amendments, the current contract agreement is until 2028. Although the Hansen Dam Equestrian Center is located on property owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers, the contract allows for the sale of alcohol (beer and wine) at shows and musical events and the concessionaire has the necessary ABC permits. LAEAC members requested that neighborhood councils be given advance notice of events to be held at the equestrian center as there are resultant problems such as noise, traffic, litter, etc. from events. Public comments echoed these same sentiments and stated some of the problems are due to the public bringing alcohol into the park. It was suggested that the contract could be expanded to cover areas adjacent to the activity venue and that additional fees be charged to the concessionaire. The presence of additional police officers would also assist with traffic and crowd control, and public intoxication problems.

The next item of discussion was the feasibility and options for the creation of a web presence for the LAEAC. Mr. Regan suggested that the LA Parks Foundation may be able to assist in this matter. In the meantime, an inquiry will be made to the Department's Information Technology Section for a "button" on the Department of Recreation and Parks' website that would provide meeting date, time, and location information.

A motion was made to form an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee for the election of officers. The motion failed. A second motion was made to both nominate and elect officers at the next meeting. The motion was approved. The positions of President, Vice President and Secretary will then be voted on.

There were no public comments.

There were no reports from the Trails or Planning sub-committees.

Committee business comments included:

EIR (Environmental Impact Report) feedback is due April 5 for the housing development proposed in Chatsworth. This development will affect the Rim of the Valley Trail.

A recommendation was made to include the requirement of safety lights for horses when riding on the streets at night. This would require a change to the LAMC (Los Angeles Municipal Code).

A recommendation was made that building contracts for stables be standardized throughout the City via the Building Code.

A short discussion was held regarding horse abandonment issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.